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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 515  
By Eckles

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain bridge on Interstate 840 in Rutherford County in honor of Mr. Wilson Francis.

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee, by means of the department of transportation, is in the process of constructing Interstate 840 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, a bypass to connect Wilson, Rutherford and Williamson Counties, thus providing area residents with better access to all areas of the state and nation; and

WHEREAS, this road is blazing a new trail across scores of acres of land that have traditionally been utilized for farm and agricultural purposes and have played an integral role in the development of Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, along this stretch of I-840 at the Smyrna Exit is a bridge that spans the Old Jefferson Pike, adjacent to the property of the late Wilson Francis; and

WHEREAS, Wilson Francis was a Cannon County native whose parents, the late James and Altie Willard Francis, lived on the same farm in Rutherford County, near the old Jefferson and Mona communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Francis' farm is located adjacent to the new bridge and Interstate 840 where he farmed the land, married Sara Frances Waller, and reared two sons, Jimmy and Danny Francis of Rutherford County; and

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WHEREAS, the late Mr. Francis was a graduate of Smyrna High School, an employee of the Wal-Mart in Smyrna, a member of the Jerusalem Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeder's Association; and

WHEREAS, although Wilson Francis is deceased, he is not forgotten, and is still remembered for his kindness, community spirit, and dedication to his family and the betterment of life in Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Rutherford County legislative body believe the best way to permanently recognize and commemorate his contributions would be to name the aforementioned bridge in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the members of the general assembly most heartily concur with this proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the bridge that spans State Route 266 on Interstate 840 in Rutherford County, is hereby designated as the "Wilson Francis Memorial Bridge" to properly honor the memory of this distinguished gentleman and commemorate his bountiful life of purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or affix suitable signs designating such bridge as the "Wilson Francis Memorial Bridge"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation, the Rutherford County legislative body, and other appropriate parties, with this final resolving clause deleted from such copies.